

Members

Sen. James Merritt, Chairperson
Sen. Jean Leising
Sen. Jean Breaux
Sen. Richard Young
Rep. Robert Cherry, Vice-Chairperson
Rep. Phyllis Pond
Rep. Greg Porter
Rep. Sheila Klinker



STATE FAIR ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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Authority: IC 15-13-6-1

MEETING MINUTES¹

Meeting Date: July 30, 2013
Meeting Time: 10:00 A.M.
Meeting Place: Board Room, Administration
Building, Indiana State Fair
Grounds, 1202 E. 38th Street
Meeting City: Indianapolis, Indiana
Meeting Number: 1

Members Present: Sen. James Merritt, Chairperson; Sen. Jean Leising; Sen. Jean Breaux; Sen. Richard Young; Rep. Robert Cherry, Vice-Chairperson; Rep. Greg Porter.

Members Absent: Rep. Phyllis Pond; Rep. Sheila Klinker.

Chairman Merritt called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. and briefly summarized the charge of the Committee. Members of the Committee introduced themselves. Chairman Merritt announced that the next meeting of the Committee will be held later in the fall.

Justin Armstrong, Indiana State Fair Foundation (Foundation) and Director of Advancement, Indiana State Fair Commission, provided an update on the Foundation. Since receiving an approval letter from the Internal Revenue Service in September, 2012, the Foundation has raised \$8.2 million to support the Coliseum renovation project. The renovation of the Coliseum is being funded through the Indiana Finance Authority with a lease-backed bond.

¹ These minutes, exhibits, and other materials referenced in the minutes can be viewed electronically at <http://www.in.gov/legislative> Hard copies can be obtained in the Legislative Information Center in Room 230 of the State House in Indianapolis, Indiana. Requests for hard copies may be mailed to the Legislative Information Center, Legislative Services Agency, West Washington Street, Indianapolis, IN 46204-2789. A fee of \$0.15 per page and mailing costs will be charged for hard copies.

Committee members were then invited to tour the fair grounds. Cindy Hoyer, Executive Director, Indiana State Fair Commission, accompanied the Committee on the tour and shared information about many of the ongoing projects at the fairgrounds. The following sites were included in the tour:

(a) Glass Barn. This facility was a gift from the Indiana Soybean Alliance. Jane Stevens, Indiana Soybean Alliance, led Committee members through the 4,500 square foot facility and provided information about the facility's exhibits. The Glass Barn houses technology games and a distance learning component that allows visitors to speak to farmers in the field. While inside this facility, Committee members participated in some of the interactive agricultural exhibits.

(b) Boy Scout encampment site. Committee members were driven by the Boy Scout encampment site, which includes a stage, landscaping, and a legacy bridge.

(c) Horse Barns. Dave Howell, Director of Facilities and Maintenance, Indiana State Fair, updated the Committee on the renovations to the horse barns as Committee members walked through one of the barns.

(d) Youth Arena. Rich Trombley, Project Manager, Indiana State Fair, and Dave Shaw, Chief Operating Officer, Indiana State Fair Commission, led Committee members through the new Youth Arena, which is a 30,000 square-foot enclosed, climate controlled multi-purpose facility that will host 4-H events, public skating, youth hockey programs, livestock shows, draft horse competitions, and other events throughout the year. This facility will house many of the livestock events, concerts, and competitions for the 2013 Indiana State Fair due to the ongoing renovation of the Coliseum.

(e) Coliseum. Rich Trombley led Committee members through the Coliseum as he spoke on the progress of the \$53 million renovation to the facility. During the 2013 Indiana State Fair, the Foundation will host daily tours of the Coliseum so that visitors will be able to see the construction progress. The scope of the renovation calls for the exterior of the Coliseum to be rejuvenated while the interior will be entirely reconstructed. Planned improvements include a two-level seating bowl, a new video scoreboard, and a state-of-the-art sound system. The new seating capacity will allow up to 8,200 seats for concerts, 6,814 seats for sporting events, and 4,850 seats for livestock events. The renovations are scheduled to be completed in 2014. Once renovations are complete, the Coliseum will serve as the venue for the Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis men's basketball team games.

At the end of the tour, Committee members were driven back to the Administration Building and the meeting was adjourned at 11:50 a.m.